

A PROCLAMATION HONORING MR.  
AND MRS. BUCHSIEB

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Richard and Beatrice Buchsieb were united in marriage January 15, 1955, and are celebrating 50 years of marriage; and

Whereas, Richard and Beatrice Buchsieb were married January 15, 1955, at 3rd Ave. United Methodist Church in Columbus, OH; and

Whereas, Richard and Beatrice Buchsieb are the loving parents of four children and four grandchildren;

Therefore, I join with the residents of Cambridge, and the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in congratulating Richard and Beatrice Buchsieb as they celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

CELEBRATING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF VALLE DEL SOL, INC.

**HON. ED PASTOR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to celebrate the 35th Anniversary of Valle del Sol, Inc., a nonprofit, community-based organization in Phoenix, Arizona which has helped thousands of individuals each year through its extensive behavioral health and social services.

Valle del Sol was created in 1970, at a time when behavioral health services in Phoenix were nearly non-existent for Latino families. The organization was originally established to address opiate addiction in the community, and although it has expanded its services over the years, Valle del Sol has always maintained its commitment to providing bilingual and culturally relevant services for the Latino community.

As one of the largest Hispanic behavioral health and social service organizations in Maricopa County, Valle del Sol's culturally diverse, bilingual staff provides a wide range of programs and services for the entire family. These programs are designed to address the increasing social and community needs related to family and behavioral health problems, and include counseling, substance abuse treatment, adult education, advocacy, services for seniors, and an adolescent therapeutic group home. Valle del Sol's commitment to excellence in customer service, financial viability, planned growth, and community development in Arizona has positively contributed not only to Latino families, but to the entire Arizona community. I am particularly proud of Valle del Sol's achievements in becoming an \$11 million agency with nearly 200 employees.

Valle del Sol has been instrumental in providing a base of leadership for the Latino community. Many Latino leaders in Arizona, including myself, have served on Valle del Sol's Board of Directors, or have attended Valle del Sol's Hispanic Leadership Institute (HLI). HLI has provided leadership training for over 18 years and is offered to community members

who are dedicated to addressing Latino issues. Under HLI training, participants gain a comprehensive understanding of issues affecting the Latino community, as well as practical leadership skills. The goal of HLI is to arm leaders with the valuable tools to effectively advocate for issues important to the Latino community.

I would like especially to acknowledge Valle del Sol's current leadership, headed by President and CEO Luz Sarmina-Gutierrez. Ms. Sarmina-Gutierrez's efforts to maintain Valle del Sol's high quality of service was duly recognized, and Valle del Sol was awarded accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) for four of its programs that specialize in substance abuse and mental health. This accreditation is the highest achievement an organization can receive from CARF and is the second time a three-year accreditation was awarded to Valle del Sol. The CARF accreditation demonstrates to the public that Valle del Sol's services meet stringent standards in following with its policies, procedures and practices, including health and safety standards.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honoring and congratulating Valle del Sol, its leadership, and its employees upon the celebration of its 35th Anniversary. It is with great pride that I celebrate Valle del Sol's outstanding contributions to the Arizona community and its unwavering commitment to public service, and I wish them many more years of success.

**REAL ID ACT OF 2005**

SPEECH OF

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 10, 2005*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 418) to establish and rapidly implement regulations for State driver's license and identification document security standards, to prevent terrorists from abusing the asylum laws of the United States, to unify terrorism-related grounds for inadmissibility and removal, and to ensure expeditious construction of the San Diego border fence.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, I cannot in good conscience vote for the REAL ID Act, H.R. 418 because, despite the intention of the bill's sponsors to strengthen our borders, it has the opposite effect, by making homeland security and an effective war against terrorism more difficult with unnecessary provisions aimed at legitimate asylum seekers. Moreover, I am guided in my judgment about this bill by the opposition of the National Governors Association and the National Council of State Legislatures.

This bill tightens asylum laws in a way that inhibits, rather than enhances our national security. Currently individuals who participate in terrorist activity are not allowed to gain asylum status in this country. Terrorists have not been able to use the current asylum system to gain entry into the country, thus the tightening of these laws only make gaining asylum status more difficult for those legitimately seeking asylum. Provisions such as requiring applicants to prove the "central reason" for their

persecution or allowing judges to require applicants to produce corroborating evidence are unnecessary.

While national security must be our top priority, immigration policy should not create unnecessary requirements for legitimate asylum seekers who are arguably our best allies in the fight against international terrorism. The asylum provisions of this bill will not enhance our security or our standing in the world.

I also have concerns that the bill allows and directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to waive all laws which he or she deems necessary to complete the construction of barriers along any and all U.S. borders. Some have argued that this provision is needed to ensure the construction of a fence along three and half miles of the U.S.-Mexico border near San Diego. However, the language of the bill is not limited to the construction of a fence in this location. Instead, it instructs the Secretary to waive all laws for all U.S. borders; this includes the U.S.-Mexico border, the U.S.-Canada border, and maybe even the border between Alaska and Russia. The bill also removes any judicial review of the waiving of these laws.

This would give far too much unchecked authority to the Secretary of Homeland Security and does not provide the protection of judicial review of this authority.

There are two amendments, one offered by my colleagues Mr. NADLER and Mr. MEEKS, and the other offered by Mr. FARR, which would strike portions of the bill that do not address our national security regard the asylum system and our borders. However, in light of their failure, I am left no option but to vote against this bill.

I find the driver's license standards established in this bill to be unnecessary as well as they already exist in current law. Last fall's Intelligence bill, which I supported, included a provision which already implements the 9/11 Commission Report's recommendations to create national minimum standards for driver's licenses. This provision allowed for states to participate with the Department of Transportation and the Department of Homeland Security in a rulemaking process.

H.R. 418 repeals these provisions and replaces them with standards established without state input. The issuance of driver's licenses has always been within state jurisdiction. Even with the measures passed in the Intelligence bill, states will largely be organizing and conducting the implementation of these standards. Their participation in establishing and implementing driver's license standards is essential for these provisions to be successful. This bill simply ignores state involvement all together in these standards.

Though the bill does provide grants for the costs of implementing these standards, with the current fiscal climate, many states fear they will be left with the burden of paying a portion of these costs. Most states are faced with the same fiscal crisis that the federal government is currently experiencing. Creating an unfunded mandate for states is unfair, especially when they are excluded from the rule-making process.

There are portions in this bill which I believe are beneficial to our national security. For instance, I am pleased the amendment offered by Mr. SESSIONS passed by a voice vote, as it will strengthen our ability to ensure the deportation of individuals who are illegally present in the United States.